

# Record

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## Coast churches celebrate new facilities

By William H. Perkins Jr.  
Editor

When First Church, Long Beach, began planning their new complex after Hurricane Katrina wiped out the downtown campus three years ago this week, it was with an eye focused on the future.

In addition to moving farther inland, incorporating the most up-to-date ideas on church design, and searching out the latest in electronics and other equipment, the church's members insisted on seven-inch-thick, prefabricated concrete walls and one-inch-thick polycarbonate windows — commonly referred to as bulletproof glass.

They want to be ready when the next hurricane assaults the church. They want to withstand the wind and wave onslaught to be a shelter and place of ministry for the community. A powerful generator will provide electricity after the next storm, and even the kitchen has been designed with double duty functionality to meet the everyday needs of the church and also for post-disaster mass feeding.

"God has been at work in a beautiful, orchestrated way," said Pastor LaRue Stephens on August 24 at the New Building Dedication Service on North Cleveland Avenue in Long Beach. Over 750 people attended the worship service in the multipurpose area of the new facility.

The 60,000-square-foot Phase One was completed at a cost of about \$16 million. Stephens said the church's vision is to begin planning for Phase Two construction as soon as the old downtown property is sold.

"Dedication Day was the culmination of a three-year journey of faith," Stephens



NEW WORSHIP CENTER — John McCall (left), minister of music at First Church, Long Beach, and pianist Robin Young lead members and friends of the church in praise during the New Building Dedication Day worship service on August 24 at the church's new facilities on North Cleveland Avenue. The church's previous physical plant in downtown Long Beach was destroyed three years ago this week by Hurricane Katrina. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

said. "God has proven His faithfulness to His people. Not only did this help us see God more clearly, God helped us see more clearly who we are."

Stephens said the church has a firm grasp on their mission as the storm recovery continues along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. "The Dedication Day celebration was not only about what God has done in the life of this church, but what God has called us to do, and that is simply, 'Restoring Hearts and Homes, One Family at a Time.' That's what we're going to do."

"I was glad when they said unto me, 'Let us go into the house of the Lord.'" (Psalm 122:1)

With that passage of Scripture, First Church, Gulfport, began the August 10 worship service portion of the church's Opening Weekend in new facilities on Highway 605 in Gulfport. More than 900 people were in attendance.

Like so many churches along the Mississippi Gulf Coast, First Church, Gulfport was ripped apart by Hurricane

Katrina three years ago this week. The church's expansive beachfront property along Highway 90 took a direct hit from the storm, with every building receiving massive damage.

All that remained of the church's worship center — closest to the beach of all the church's buildings — was the steel superstructure. Hymnbooks, children's toys, and videotapes from the church's library were scattered for hundreds of feet in all directions.

The church's new facility, the first of several building phases, is now farther inland and open for worship. The \$18.75 million structure contains 58,000 square feet of innovative ministry space, including a children's theater, coffee shop, and multipurpose worship/activities area.

Pastor Chuck Register preached from 1 Kings 8:54-61, when King Solomon determined he would focus the Israelite's attention on heart issues.

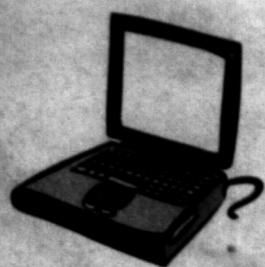
"Today is not about a Hurricane named Katrina; nor is it about the 'First Family,' our loss, our heartache, or our journey toward recovery," Register said in remarks after the worship service. "Today is about the goodness of God and His faithfulness to the family of faith known as First Baptist, Gulfport. Today, we celebrate His grace."

"For generations to come residents in south Mississippi will use these facilities for worship and discipleship. Therefore, our prayer must always be that through this facility and the ministries offered on this campus, God will be glorified and His Kingdom will grow."

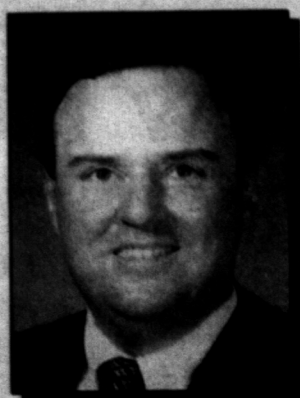


HOUSE OF THE LORD — Chuck Register (at pulpit), pastor of First Church, Gulfport, preaches at the Opening Weekend worship service on August 10 at the church's new facilities on Highway 605 in Gulfport. Three years ago this week, Hurricane Katrina reduced to rubble the church's beachfront complex on Highway 90. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)





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# The best Olympics story

**T**housands upon thousands of articles containing hundreds of millions of words in every major language of the world have been written and spoken during the just-completed 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing, China. None of those articles and words surpass the story of Tasha Danvers.

Danvers, a track star from Great Britain, won the bronze medal in the 400-meter hurdles during the Olympics, with a personal best time of 53.84 seconds. While many Olympians are disappointed with anything less than a gold medal — Swede Ara Abrahamian threw away the bronze medal he won in the Greco-Roman Wrestling category at the games — Danvers delighted in her award.

In light of what she had been through to finally reach the medal stand, she had every right to celebrate.

Danvers was on her way to certain glory at the 2004 Summer Olympics Games in Athens, Greece. Her dedication to her training regimen and her singular focus on making it to the Olympics had made her a true force in track and field. She was ranked sixth in the world in hurdles.

Then she found out she was pregnant.



**Danvers**

With the Olympics at hand and international athletic stardom within reach, she had to make a decision. She was pressured to abort the baby and continue her training. After all, who would know? The ends — prospective Olympic gold and the riches that went with being a champion — surely justified the means.

Danvers and her American husband (and coach) Darrell Smith decided the baby's life was more important, much more important, than the trappings of fame.

"[T]he thought did cross our minds as an option," Baptist Press quoted Danvers as telling the Telegraph, a London newspaper, in May 2004 before citing Mark 8:36, "but this line from the Scriptures kept com-

ing into my head: 'For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?'

"For me, the whole world was the Olympics. At the same time, I felt I would be losing my soul."

What an incredible witness to today's young women facing such crises in their own lives!

With that momentous decision, however, her Olympics dreams were dashed — but only temporarily. Son Jaden was born in December 2004, just a few months after the Athens games. She immediately set a goal for the 2008 Olympics, and once again began training in earnest.

In the Olympic orbit, however, age matters like nowhere else in sports. Danvers had postponed her Olympic quest by four years, and it showed. She suffered through several painful injuries and wasn't seen as having much potential for a medal in Beijing.

She did get her medal, though, and a son, too.

"Don't ever give up," Danvers told the Times of London, after winning the bronze medal. "That's what I want the next generation to understand. Everything doesn't come up all roses all the time. That is the nature of this athletics game."

That's the nature of life, too, Tasha. Thanks for reminding us of that in such a splendid way.

**T**he topic of abortion has become front and center for conservatives in the presidential election, with questions for both candidates about the issue now on the table. One question that remains unanswered is why legislators have not been more proactive in seeking to stem the tide of abortion in the United States.

In the 35 years since Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion throughout the nation, the debate over abortion has shifted. In the early days of the abortion battle, liberals insisted that the baby in the womb was anything but a developing human being — a "blob of tissue" they said. However, with advances in medical technology even the most ardent proponents of abortion rights now admit that the baby in the womb is indeed human, and looks like one, too.

The debate now centers on personhood. The question pro-choicers currently pose is: "When does the fetus actually become a person?" Of course, they maintain the answer is not until birth, or even sometime afterward. The most radical of the pro-abortion community, like Princeton University bioethics professor Peter Singer, believe the baby doesn't achieve personhood until weeks after birth.

## GUEST OPINION:



### Let's tax abortion!

By Kelly Boggs, editor  
Louisiana Baptist Message

In order to sway the masses that abortion should remain legal, pro-choicers have taken a more measured approach toward their public pronouncements in support of the procedure. Now some supporters of abortion say that abortion is indeed a tragedy. However, they maintain that because unplanned pregnancies still occur to women in difficult circumstances, abortion should be "safe, legal, and rare."

It is time for pro-life legislators to force their pro-choice colleagues to put their legislation where their mouths are. If they are indeed serious about making abortion rare, then call them on it. How? In the past if liberals didn't like a practice or behavior, they have employed a systematic approach to curtail it: demonize it, tax it, regulate it.

Take cigarette smoking, for instance. First, they educated people to all the dangers and ills

of smoking. The second prong employed in the war on smoking was taxation, to make the product so expensive people will no longer be able to afford to smoke.

While education and taxation have helped reduce smoking in the U.S., regulation has also played a part. Tobacco products are restricted as to where they can advertise, with nothing allowed via the airwaves. Federal law also requires warning labels on cigarette packs. Additionally, no one under 18 is legally permitted to purchase cigarettes.

Has the media campaign, combined with taxation and regulation worked? Yes. In the 1970s, when legislators began to go after tobacco products in earnest, approximately 40% of Americans smoked. Today the figure is estimated to be around 21%.

If advocates of abortion rights are serious about making the practice rare, perhaps it is time

to force them to highlight all the negative aspects and possible ills associated with abortion. If they really want to make abortion rare, then they should help educate women on post-abortion syndrome and the abortion-breast cancer link.

Pro-choice legislators say they want abortion to be rare, so let them propose taxes on the clinics that perform the procedure. If the procedure becomes expensive, perhaps some women will choose other alternative to abortion.

Pro-life legislators should insist that abortion be heavily regulated. Restrict advertising for abortion providers and insist that women seeking abortions be given a warning concerning the possible negative consequences of abortion. Additionally, establish a federally mandated minimum age of 18 for abortions.

While I look forward to the day that Roe v. Wade is a sad footnote in history, that day is still somewhere in the future. Until then, our pro-life legislators should be more proactive on their pro-choice colleagues concerning their desire for abortion to be "rare."

Ask them to demonize it, tax it, and regulate it the same way they do cigarettes. If pro-choicers don't agree, their hypocrisy will be all too apparent.



# COSBE leader tackling baptisms decline

SEVIERVILLE, Tn. (BP) — Ron Herrod has seen the statistics and is well aware that baptisms are on the decline in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Like many Southern Baptists, Herrod, who was elected president of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists (COSBE) in June before the start of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meeting in Indianapolis, is puzzled that baptisms continue to go downward or remain stagnant.

A report issued in April by LifeWay Christian Resources showed baptisms fell for the third straight year in 2007, to the convention's lowest level since 1987. The 2007 stats showed 345,941 baptisms reported in SBC churches, compared to 364,826 baptisms in 2006, a decrease of 5.46%.

Herrod, whose evangelistic ministry is based in Sevierville, Tn., knows the decline has not happened because of lack of con-

cern among Southern Baptist leadership. He cited the efforts of past convention presidents Bobby Welch and Frank Page in bringing attention to evangelism — particularly Welch, who made baptisms the primary focus of his two-year stint as president.

Herrod also is very supportive of Johnny Hunt, the new SBC president, and his commitment to evangelism.

Besides the support of convention leadership, there have been numerous evangelistic thrusts and witnessing programs initiated over the years to share the message of Jesus Christ, the COSBE president observed.

"We have all kinds of strategies and programs," Herrod observed. "One of my concerns is that there is a long way between the strategies at our conference tables to the guy in the pew."

Another new strategy, God's Plan for Sharing (GPS), was launched recently by the North American Mission Board

(NAMB), based in Alpharetta, Ga.

Herrod is convinced the GPS national evangelism initiative by NAMB is good, but for it to be truly effective, laypeople in the local church must be personally involved. "Most Baptists are tired of programs," he observed. "They want to see something that is God-sized and Spirit-anointed."

Herrod is optimistic the trend can be reversed. One way to get laymen excited about sharing their faith, Herrod said, is to take them on mission trips.

As a pastor for 36 years and now as an evangelist for nearly 14 years, Herrod has used mission trips to spur people to share their faith.

"As a pastor, I observed that those I took on volunteer missions trips became my best workers and witnesses when I brought them home," said Herrod, who has been pastor of churches in Louisiana, Arkansas, and Tennessee.

As an evangelist he uses volunteers in his international crusades and also in overseas institutes in which he trains and equips national church leaders and missionaries. Training laity to share their faith as a lifestyle will be important in reversing baptism trends, Herrod said.

Another key is the use of full-time evangelists.

While in the pastorate, Herrod said he supported the work of vocational evangelists, using at least two per year.

As an evangelist and president of COSBE, Herrod encourages current pastors to take advantage of God-called evangelists who are trained to "draw the net." There are certain people God has gifted that when "the invitation is given, the harvest comes," he said.

Herrod cited statistics used by fellow evangelist Keith Fordham of Georgia that show 33-50% of all baptisms come from revivals and "harvest days."

In addition, Herrod noted churches that hold revival meetings require 24 resident members to win one person to Christ, compared to 36 resident members to win one to Christ in churches that do not hold revival meetings.

"Use God's gift to the

church — the evangelist — on a regular basis to help draw the net and bring in the harvest," he challenged. The former pastor is dismayed over a trend he sees in some churches to not offer an invitation at every service. "I don't understand pastors who do not give an invitation. An invitation is biblical," he said. "What if a lost person is there and he walks away without an opportunity [to make a profession of faith]? We have failed to do what God calls us to do."

Herrod knows some churches do not use evangelists because of a prior "bad experience" or the negative perception of a very few well-known television evangelists. This is where Herrod is optimistic COSBE can make a difference because the organization emphasizes accountability.

COSBE has stringent membership requirements and an accountability team people can contact if they have a problem with a member evangelist. "We won't be in the churches unless we are worthy of the trust of their pastors," Herrod said. "The Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists is committed to purity, integrity and honesty in our evangelists."

The organization also is working with NAMB on a strategy to help churches who "are struggling" to reach people for Christ. He noted COSBE has a long list of evangelists willing to go out to these churches and said, "I believe it will make a difference."

The biggest difference, however, in reversing the baptism trend must come from God, Herrod said. "We need an outpouring of God's Spirit that we normally have called revival," he explained. "It is the key to everything — harvest in the church and laymen being motivated to share their faith."

Herrod is convinced that baptisms will increase when everyone comes to the conclusion that "the one will of God for the church is to bring in the harvest."

The two functions to accomplish that goal are to win the lost and grow the saved so they can win the lost, Herrod said. Anything on the church calendar or in the church budget that does not meet those two functions is a waste of time and money, he said.



Ron Herrod

## Proposal protects docs

WASHINGTON (BP) — The freedom of conscience of pro-life doctors and other health-care providers would be protected under a new rule proposed by the Bush administration. The regulation, issued by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Aug. 21, would clarify that federal law protects the rights of institutions and individuals not to participate in abortion and other medical procedures to which they object on moral or religious grounds. Noncompliance could result in the withholding of federal funds to more than 580,000 hospitals, nursing homes, medical schools, doctors' offices, and other recipients. "Doctors and other health-care providers should not be forced to choose between good professional standing and violating their conscience," HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt said in announcing the proposed rule. "Freedom of expression and action should not be surrendered upon the issuance of a health-care degree." David Stevens, chief executive officer of the Christian Medical Association (CMA), said in a written statement the rule is "desperately needed to protect First Amendment rights and implement federal law in what is becoming a jungle of coercion in health care." The Planned Parenthood Federation of America objected to the regulation. "As one of the leading women's health-care providers and advocates, Planned Parenthood will not stand by and watch the Bush administration deny quality, affordable health care and accurate information to women," said Cecile Richards, president of the country's leading abortion provider, in a written statement. The regulation's proposal came after a committee of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) said in a November recommendation physicians "with moral or religious objections" should refer women seeking abortions to doctors who will perform them. The ACOG committee even said pro-life doctors should locate their practices near physicians who will do abortions. ABOG provides certification and recertification for obstetricians and gynecologists in the United States. CMA reported 40% of its members say they have been discriminated against or pressured because they adhere to pro-life standards. "Sometimes the discrimination and coercion because of life-affirming views is subtle, such as denying admission to medical students, training privileges to residents or promotions to graduate physicians," CMA Senior Vice President Gene Rudd said in a written release. "Other times a line is clearly and overtly drawn between either participating in unethical actions or losing their position or career." There will be a 30-day comment period on the proposed rule before HHS issues a final version.

## Looking back

### 10 YEARS AGO

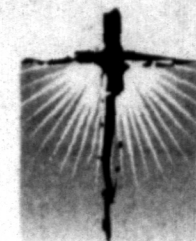
The national chain of Baptist Book Stores, owned and operated by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, will become LifeWay Christian Stores on Aug. 27.

### 20 YEARS AGO

Richard Land, academic vice-president of Criswell College in Dallas, is recommended to trustees as the new executive director-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission in Nashville. He replaces Larry Baker, who resigned after serving only 16 months.

### 50 YEARS AGO

M. Lee Ferrell, minister of education, Capitol Heights Church, Montgomery, Ala., accepts the position of associate in the Brotherhood Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, according to Chester L. Quarles, executive secretary-treasurer.



MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS

## THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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YOU CAN RESPOND  
RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.



## FOLKS NEVER LEARN

One of the baffling things to me about sin is that we never learn to stay away from it. It does not take a child very long to learn to stay away from a hot stove and even in childlike fashion say, "Hot, hot!" It stays with them for life, but when it comes to disobeying the commands of God, when it comes to sin, and when it comes to doing evil, we never learn. We turn right around after we have been hurt and experienced the pain of guilt and embarrassment and even endured the punishment that comes from wrongdoing, and we go right back and do it again.

While driving down the road the other day I came around a curve and there I saw the blue lights. I looked down at my speedometer and the cruise control was set exactly on the speed limit. Then I saw that someone else had been stopped. I pulled over to the left to abide by the move-over laws that have been passed in our state, tapped the brake so that I would be going less than the speed limit, and went right on down the highway. I did pause to look and see the car and the person who apparently was getting a ticket. I kept

on driving. I may have gone five miles or so when I noticed in my rearview mirror there was a vehicle charging up behind me. My first thought was that the highway patrolman was coming to stop me and I am not even going the speed limit. As the car came closer, I could tell that it was not a highway patrolman but it looked like the car that had been pulled over to get a ticket. I was driving the speed limit and he had to be driving more than 20 mph above the speed limit. I stayed in my lane and kept on trucking. Lo and behold, he went by me like I was sitting still. Sure enough, it was the very same car and driver that I saw getting the ticket. Go figure!

It is not just on the road — oh, no! It is anywhere you want to look and anyone of the

laws and commands of God that you want to study. We human beings listen, look, and turn right around and repeat breaking the law. We ought to be reminded that the power of sin is enormous in our lives. It does not matter who you are because apart from the wonderful grace of God sin will envelope you. It will wreck and ruin you. You will crawl away from it filled with pain, get up, and do it again.

We also need to be reminded that the remedy for sin is not to be found in academics or intellect. Strange but oftentimes, the smarter a person is the more they think they can outsmart evil. They actually think that although everybody else gets caught and others have failed, that it will not be me because I am smarter than everybody else. Disobeying God is not an intellectual exercise so

much as it is the warp of the will to do what you always desired to do. It is the elevation of self to the seat of lordship.

Of course, it is vital that we be reminded that God has intervened on our behalf. He saw the first sin in the Garden that wrecked a family, cursed the creation, and brought calamity in waves all across His creation. He knew that there would only be one hope for the sinfulness of man and that would be a Man without sin who would take all of our wrong upon Him. Jesus would give His life so that we might have life. You may be dealing with ongoing or repetitive, addictive sin that you cannot conquer. You are correct. You cannot overcome it, but Jesus can. He is the saving Jesus who rescues us from the destructiveness of sin and He goes on saving us, holding us in the palm of His hand. He secures for us life abundant now and life eternal in the future.

I join with the Apostle Paul from the depths of my heart and maybe with many of you in saying, "But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 15:57).

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BKLVY HVC: HGVDRV

Clue: : B=H

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Five Thirty-Two.

## MS POSITIONS

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**SALEM BAPTIST CHURCH, MARSHALL county, Miss.,** seeking part-time youth director with potential for growth. Please send resume to search committee, P.O. Box 734, Potts Camp, MS 38659.

**FBC, HORN LAKE, MISS., IS SEARCHING** for a part-time financial secretary. Send resumes to personnel committee, FBC, 3505 Goodman Rd, Horn Lake, MS 38637; email: [lkaldahl@fbchl.org](mailto:lkaldahl@fbchl.org).

**PART-TIME CHILDREN'S DIRECTOR** wanted: directing children's program for mission friends on Wednesday night, children's church program Sunday morning, and disciple training on Sunday evening. Fax resume to: 601-264-7699 or mail to FBC of Bellevue, 7173 US Hwy 98 W., Hattiesburg, MS 39402.

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**TRIP OF A LIFETIME TO THE HOLYLAND:** join Ronnie & Beverly Cottingham, November 28 - December 7, 2008, \$3,775.00 from Mobile, Alabama, 601-947-7167. A division of Jus' Jesus Ministries, Inc., Lucedale, MS, [www.ronniecottingham.com](http://www.ronniecottingham.com).

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# American vols share gift of Christ during Olympics

BEIJING (BP) — Images from the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing remain indelibly etched in the minds of millions of people, who either attended the games or followed them closely on television.

There's the grandeur of the opening ceremony and the quirkiness of the Bird's Nest stadium architecture. There's Michael Phelps winning an Olympic record eight gold medals in swimming competition. There's Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt zooming to three gold medals and three world records in track. There's the U.S. volleyball team rebounding to win gold after the tragic stabbing death of Todd Bachman, father-in-law of coach Hugh McCutcheon.

As China extinguished the Olympic flame in the closing ceremony on Sunday and handed off responsibility for the 2012 Olympics to the city of London, the 2008 Olympics were relegated to history — and history will most likely be kind to China for the way in which it hosted the Olympics.

Some Southern Baptists who shared their faith in Christ during the Olympics, however, expect their efforts to echo not just throughout history, but throughout eternity.

"We began to remember how Lottie Moon left a legacy behind her in the areas she served, and that we now see that those areas are still the most heavily evangelized areas of China even today," said Rhonda Boggs, director of global outreach at Immanuel Church in Highland, Calif.

Boggs led a team of seven people from her church that spent a week in Beijing during the Olympics.

"So, then we thought, there are so many people here sharing Christ, that day may come that we will hear about Beijing turning to Christ and a revival sweeping the nation that they will pin to the fact of so many Christians sharing Christ during the Olympics," she said.

Sid Hopkins, director of missions for the Gwinnett Metro Association in Georgia, agreed. "We'll never know the impact of what can happen out of this kind of thing," he said.

Hopkins was part of a team in Beijing working with the More than

Gold ministry. One of the ministry's leaders in Beijing, unnamed for security purposes, estimated more than 2,000 volunteers were on hand to share the Gospel in China — many of them Southern Baptists.

One of the ways they did that was through pin trading, a popular activity during the Olympics. Hopkins, for example, walked around wearing a vest that displayed dozens of Olympic pins.

The Chinese people he encountered were not bashful about stopping him and grabbing his vest to examine the pins. "The first day when we were down at the plaza area, I'll bet I had my picture taken 500 times," he said. "They just swarmed me."

When handing out the More than Gold pins, volunteers used the colors on the pins to tell about Jesus.

Hopkins recalled one encounter he had with a young woman who served as an Olympic volunteer. The volunteers wore hats that Hopkins said were extremely difficult to acquire, because the volunteers to whom they were issued did not give them up easily.

"I shared with her, and she had tears in her eyes, and she was so thankful," Hopkins said. "She took off her volunteer hat and gave it to me. I said, 'No, I cannot take your hat. It's too precious.' She said, 'But you have shared such good things with me. You must have my hat,' and she gave me her hat. Then I had tears in my eyes."

Debbie Wohler, a missionary with the North American Mission Board who works with Tahoe Resort Ministries in California, is an Olympics pin-trading veteran. "It's just the easiest way in the world to meet people," she said. "All I have to do is lay them out on the table, and people come."

Boggs and her group also used the More than Gold pins, but discovered quickly that they weren't always necessary. "That was supposed to be the attraction," Boggs said about the pins. "It ended up that our Western faces were the attraction."

Though most of the people they encountered didn't speak English, Boggs said she and her team members had multiple opportunities to tell people about



**SPECIAL CONVERSATION** — Lisa Farias (second from left), a young adult from Immanuel Church in Highland, Ca., engages in conversation with several Chinese citizens as part of her witness in Beijing during the just-completed 2008 Summer Olympics. (BP photo by Rhonda Boggs)

Jesus Christ. "The ones who were university students, they would actively seek us out," Boggs said. "We could have in-depth conversations. Most of them didn't have a concept of God and Jesus."

David Guinn, of Lafayette Heights Church in Lafayette, Ala., has been ministering at the Olympics since 1988, when he served as a chaplain in Calgary.

Guinn is now the head of the evangelistic Action Ministries International, which supplies sports chaplains to major sporting events including the Olympics. This year in Beijing, Guinn and about 60 volunteers shared the Gospel with thousands of visitors from all over the world.

"We try to keep a low profile and stay behind the scenes — do our work, do the follow-up," Guinn said. "Our goal is personal evangelism with the highest integrity. We present the Gospel and let the Holy Spirit do the work."

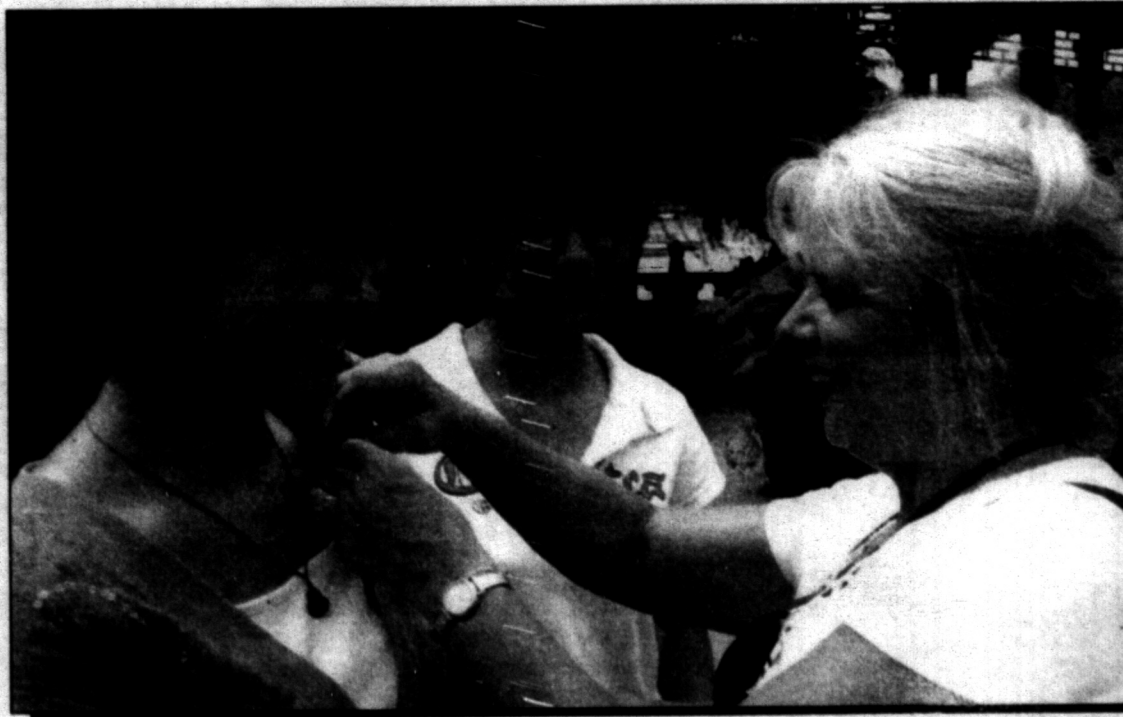
Though not affiliated with More than Gold, Guinn and his volunteers also used pins as a witnessing tool. "At (the 1994 Winter Olympics in) Lillehammer, Norway, they lovingly named our pin the 'Jesus pin,'" Guinn said, "so everybody was talking about the Jesus pin. Everybody wanted one but to have the pin, you have to hear the story. Nobody gets a pin without hearing the story about Jesus."

Like others, John Forrester expects his ministry in Beijing to have eternal significance. A church starter strategist from Kotzebue, Ala., Forrester also worked at 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney, Australia, and the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City.

"I think we've been able to plant seeds, and we may not see the seeds flourish, but somebody else will," Forrester said, "and that's God's business."



**TALKING POINTS** — Sid Hopkins, director of missions for the Gwinnett Metro Association in Georgia, struck up conversations in Beijing during the just-completed 2008 Summer Olympics by wearing a vest filled with Olympics trading pins. (BP photo by Tim Ellsworth)



**GOLDEN MOMENT** — Marcie Clark (right), on her first overseas mission project, shares a More than Gold trading pin during the just-completed 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing. Clark is a member of Immanuel Church in Highland, Ca. (BP photo by Rhonda Boggs)



## JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Calvary Church, Bogue Chitto



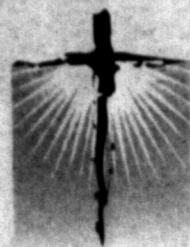
2. Central Church, McComb



3. Parkway Church, Houston



4. Lakeside Church, Hattiesburg



### MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS

1. **Calvary Church, Bogue Chitto**, broke ground on their new fellowship hall July 13. Shown are Jeff Freeman, Rowena McGee, Lynn Reeves, Kathy Wallace, Harry Joe Martin, Tommy Sasser, Percy Rutledge, and Trent Bilbo.

2. **Central Church, McComb** recently ordained Durwood Gordon, Tersie Oliphant, and Lockwood Hoots, Jr., as deacons. Shown from left are Kevin Johnston, Gordon, Oliphant, and Hoots.

3. The Mission Friends from **Parkway Church, Houston**, collected school supplies for needy children as a mission project. Shown are the participants.

4. Eight GAs and two adult leaders from **Lakeside Church, Hattiesburg**, traveled to Collins on a mission trip combined with their summer retreat July 28 - 29. Shown are the participants.

5. Generations, a singing group from **Bovina Church, Vicksburg**, sang at several churches during their spring concert. Shown is the group.

6. **Hamilton Church, Benton-Tippah Association**, recently licensed Zachary Howell to preach the gospel. Shown are Eddie Brock, Howell, and Donnie Schuman.

7. **East End Church, Columbus**, ordained Randy Porter as deacon Aug. 17. Shown are Ernie Smith, Porter, Tomekia Porter, Mel Sharpe, and Albert Wilkerson.

8. **Sunrise Church, Leake Association**, recently welcomed back a group from the church who participated in a mission trip to Nicaragua. Shown are Susie Powers, Doug Powers, David Addy, and Anse Rigby.



5. Bovina Church, Vicksburg



6. Howell ordination



7. Porter ordination



8. Sunrise Church, Leake





## THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST FOUNDATION

Fall 2008

### ***"Destination Legacy...Planning the Trip Is Easier Than You Think"***

**H**ave you ever planned a trip? Perhaps you were planning a family vacation or a mission trip. Did you try to gather as much information as possible about your destination including typical weather patterns, sightseeing opportunities, and the least expensive and/or quickest modes of travel? Did you utilize the services of a travel agency, Internet web sites, or consult friends who were familiar with your destination? If traveling to your destination by automobile, did you determine the best route and travel time using a web-based navigation program or follow the directions supplied by a GPS in your car?

In our daily quest to navigate the road of life successfully, many folks spend a large portion of each day traveling lickety split along the information "super highway." The vast array of information that is available through a variety of media enables us to keep up with current events, identify helpful ideas and strategies, explore available opportunities, research solutions to problems, and communicate with others. Decisions are made and plans are finalized based on the information that is available.

The usefulness of all of this information, however, is dependent on the quality of the road on which it travels. Occasionally, detours and potholes appear on the information highway because the presentation of information results in material that is unclear,

too complicated, or simply too much to absorb at one time.

Unfortunately, information pertaining to estate planning and charitable giving often falls prey to these kinds of detours and potholes. Confirmation of this truth was forthcoming to me personally following the publication of a recent edition of Foundation News presented in the Baptist Record. An acquaintance of mine informed me that a member of her Sunday School class asked "Did you understand everything that Daniel was talking about in that Foundation article?" My acquaintance admitted to her class member that she didn't fully understand some of the material. Then she added, "And I don't think that I'm going to ask him either."

Your friends at the Mississippi Baptist Foundation desire for you to reap the manifold blessings of building a legacy through informed decisions regarding your stewardship and estate planning goals. To this end, we present this edition of Foundation News as a guide to help you understand some of the basic navigational tools appropriate for careful planning and successful arrival at "Destination Legacy."



Daniel Hall  
Executive Director  
Mississippi Baptist Foundation



# Last Will and Testament

Perhaps the most useful tool for establishing a legacy and extending your Christian influence is a Last Will and Testament. In simple terms, a Will is a legal document that "speaks" for you after the Lord has called you into higher service with Him. Jesus encouraged his followers to leave a Kingdom-focused legacy through laying up treasures in heaven.

A valid Last Will and Testament can help you arrive at *Destination Legacy* by affording you the opportunity to present your wishes, or will, with respect to the disposition of your possessions. In addition, you can name a guardian for minor children, provide resources for your family, and address your charitable-giving goals through your Will.

Unfortunately, many people take detours or succumb to potholes along life's journey and die without a valid Last Will and Testament. Some estimates suggest that 70% of the more than two million Americans who die each year do not have a Will. In other words, the majority of people fail to get their "ducks in a row" in a manner consistent with safe and successful arrival at *Destination Legacy*.

When a person dies without a valid Last Will and Testament, emotional distress and unnecessary expense are among the host of painful consequences experienced by loved ones. In addition, personal possessions may be subject to distribution according to impersonal laws and statutes. On the other hand, the establishment of a Will has several advantages.

## ADVANTAGES OF A LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT:

- Control your lifetime accumulation of personal property by passing these assets to family, friends, charity, and ministry;
- Faithfully carry out your responsibility to care for your surviving spouse, parents, young children, disadvantaged children, adult children, and/or grandchildren;
- Minimize estate taxes and other final costs;
- Make specific bequests of tangible property and provide for the disposition of the remaining assets after all expenses and bequests have been paid;
- Provide a tangible witness of your faith in Christ and share hope with others through gifts that support your favorite ministries in perpetuity.

Since 1943, the Mississippi Baptist Foundation has assisted individuals with charitable estate planning. If you need to get your "ducks in a row" by protecting your loved ones and by including a charitable component in your Last Will and Testament, please call the Foundation office at (601) 292-3210. A Will can help ensure that you arrive at *Destination Legacy* in proper fashion. Remember, when you need a will, it is too late to write a will.



## Benefits of a \$10,000 Charitable Gift

Donor's Age	Distribution Percentage	Guaranteed Annual Income
90+	10.5%	\$ 1050.00
85	8.9%	\$ 890.00
80	7.6%	\$ 760.00
75	6.7%	\$ 670.00
70	6.1%	\$ 610.00
65	5.7%	\$ 570.00
60	5.5%	\$ 550.00

These figures are provided for illustrative purposes only and should not be construed as a guarantee. The Foundation would be glad to provide additional illustrations based upon your specific age and circumstances.



## Charitable Gift Annuity

**A**nother basic estate-planning and charitable-giving tool useful for arriving at *Destination Legacy* is the Charitable Gift Annuity. In simple terms, a Charitable Gift Annuity is an agreement between a donor and a qualified charitable organization such as the Mississippi Baptist Foundation. Within the agreement, an exchange of assets is made between the donor and the MBF whereby the donor(s) offers cash or non-cash assets (stocks, mutual funds, etc.) and receives a guaranteed fixed income each year for life.

At the death of the donor(s), the funds remaining in the corpus of the gift annuity are distributed to the charitable cause(s) outlined by the donor in the agreement. The Mississippi Baptist Foundation administers a host of gift annuities on behalf of individuals who not only appreciate a guaranteed annual income and favorable tax treatment, but who also desire to leave a lasting Kingdom legacy through Baptist ministries.

## Charitable Gift Annuity

	Tax-Free Income	Taxable Income	Charitable Deduction
\$	\$ 831.60	\$ 218.42	\$ 5,925.40
\$	\$ 675.51	\$ 214.49	\$ 5,408.50
\$	\$ 535.80	\$ 224.20	\$ 4,961.10
\$	\$ 444.88	\$ 225.12	\$ 4,484.00
\$	\$ 378.20	\$ 231.80	\$ 3,988.00
\$	\$ 328.89	\$ 244.11	\$ 3,454.60
\$	\$ 297.55	\$ 252.45	\$ 2,827.00

is construed as tax or financial advice. The \$10,000 figure is merely an example. We age and annuity amount. Calculations for two lives are also available upon request.

## THE ADVANTAGES OF A GIFT ANNUITY MAY BE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS:

- **Income for Life** — The donor receives a guaranteed fixed income for life with payout rates for one or two people.
- **Tax Deduction** — A large part of the donor's transfer is deductible as a charitable gift.
- **Tax-free Income** — Not only does the donor receive a tax deduction for establishing the gift annuity and an income for life, but a portion of the annual payments are tax-free also. Thus, the real percentage yield is higher than the stated distribution rate.
- **Capital Gains Savings** — The potential impact of capital gains tax for appreciated assets such as stocks is minimized when the donor funds the gift annuity by transferring securities to the charity.
- **Flexibility** — The donor may choose the frequency of their payments. While payments are often made on a quarterly basis, payments also can be made monthly, semi-annually, or annually. In addition to the various payment frequency options, one person or two-person annuities may be selected. Furthermore, cash or non-cash assets may be utilized to establish the gift annuity. Cash gifts are the most beneficial in terms of tax-free income while gifts of securities (stocks) allow the donor to reduce their capital gains taxes.
- **Personal Satisfaction** — The donor has the satisfaction of knowing that their generosity will continue to make a lasting impact even after the Lord calls them to "higher" service with Him.



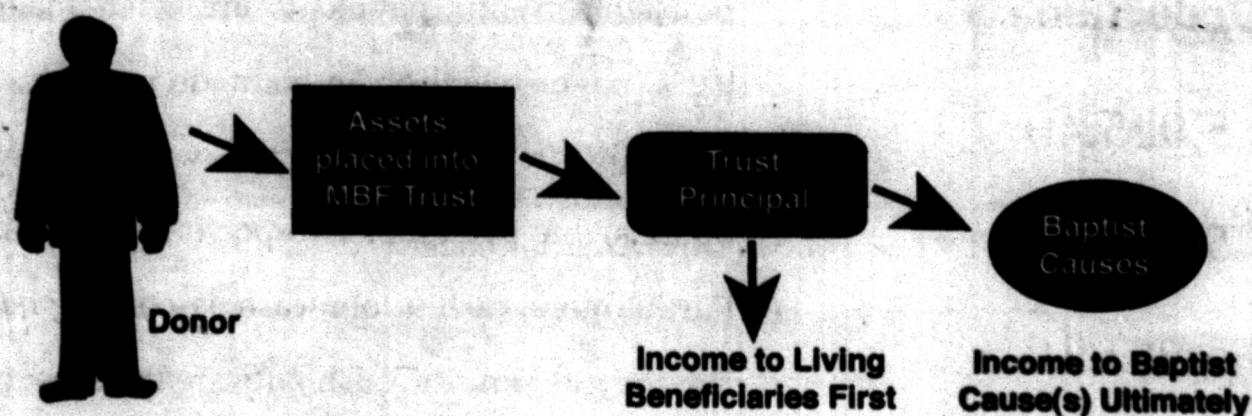


# Charitable Remainder Trusts

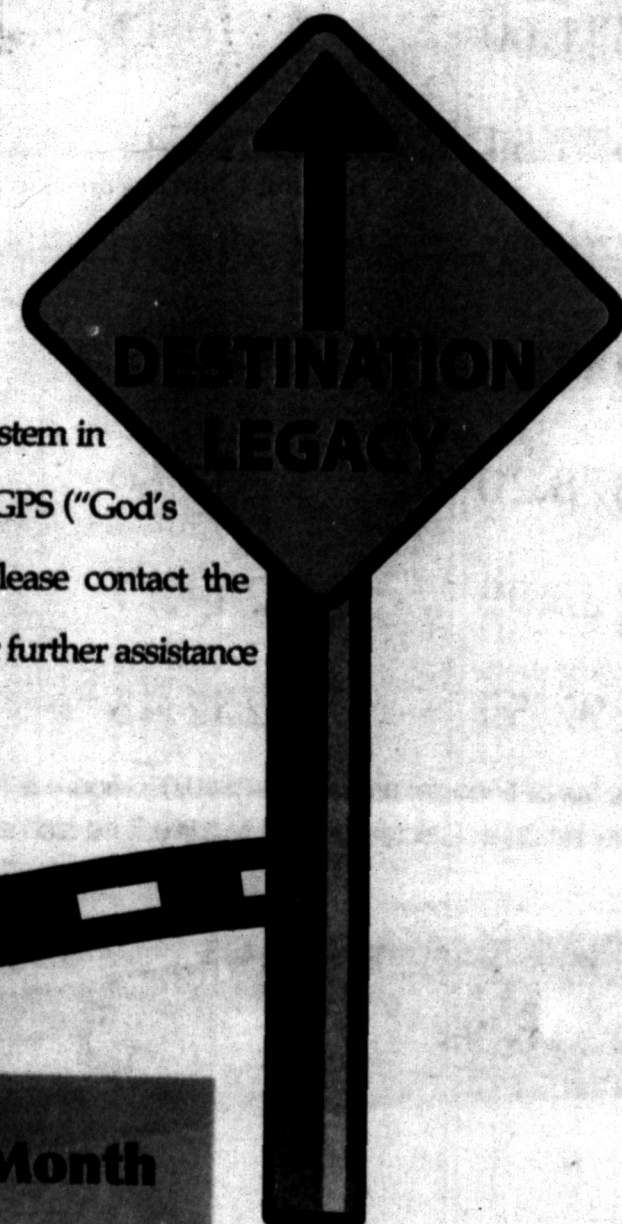
**A** Charitable Remainder Trust is a planning tool that can be employed to enhance individual estate plans with a focus on reaching *Destination Legacy*. When establishing a Charitable Remainder Trust, the donor irrevocably transfers assets – usually cash, securities, or real estate – to a trustee such as the Mississippi Baptist Foundation. The trustee invests the trust's assets and provides the donor with an income stream for life. Upon the death of the donor(s), the example of generosity and Christian stewardship will yield continual blessings for a designated Mississippi Baptist or Southern Baptist cause such as the donor's church, the Baptist Children's Village, our Mississippi Baptist colleges, the Cooperative Program, or missions.

Charitable Remainder Trusts come in the form of a Unitrust or an Annuity trust. Both types of charitable remainder trusts have several common features, while both also maintain a measure of distinctiveness. The benefits of both the Charitable Remainder Unitrust (CRUT) and the Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust (CRAT) include:

1. A CHARITABLE DEDUCTION FOR INCOME TAX PURPOSES;
2. POSSIBLE ESTATE TAX BENEFITS;
3. AN INCOME STREAM FOR LIFE WHICH IS EITHER VARIABLE (CRUT) OR FIXED (CRAT);
4. BOTH THE CRUT AND CRAT PROVIDE RESIDUAL BENEFITS TO A CHARITABLE BENEFICIARY(IES) PRESCRIBED BY THE DONOR WITHIN THE TRUST DOCUMENTATION.



While you might not utilize a computer-driven navigation web site or a Global Positioning System in your daily travels, hopefully the information presented in this newsletter can serve as a special GPS ("God's Positioning System") to guide you in terms of your stewardship and Christian influence. Please contact the Foundation office at (601)-292-3210, Post Office Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 or [dhall@mbcb.org](mailto:dhall@mbcb.org) for further assistance in developing your travel plans for reaching *Destination Legacy*.



*Remember, September is Baptist Foundation Month*



## JUST FOR THE RECORD

9. Boy Scout Troop 355 from **Strong Hope Church, Wesson**, attended Warren Hood Scout Camp July 6 - 11. Shown, front, is Wes Beasley; back, Dylan Berch and Brandon Runyan.



9. Strong Hope Church, Wesson

10. **Zion Church, Pontotoc**, held Baptist Men's Day on June 15. Shown are the men participating in the choir along with the children for children's church.



10. Zion Church, Pontotoc

11. **Improve Church, Columbia**, held a back to school bash Aug. 6. Shown, front, are Jon Bullock, Bret Stringer, Marcus Petty, and Chris Morgan; back, Sara Treadway, Rosemary O'Quinn, and Brandon Bell.

12. **First Church, Vicksburg** is sponsoring an emerging church conference Sept. 7, 4 p.m., at the church, and Boomers, A Mission Field Ripe for Harvest, Sept. 8, 10 a.m., at the Warren/Yazoo Associational Office. For more information call (601) 636-2493 or jch@fbcvicksburg.org.



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



1. Mt. Vernon Church, Newton



3. First Church, Charleston



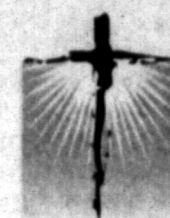
4. Mt. Olive Church, Okolona



5. Mt. Manna Church, Coldwater



6. Pleasant Hill Church, Tippah County



MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS

1. **Mt. Vernon Church, Newton**: Record attendance, 79; nine professions of faith; Debbie Wall, director; Steve Pouncey, pastor.
2. **Victory Church, Lincoln County**: July, average attendance of 86; offering of \$948.94 went to Dickerson Place; Mike Sutton, interim pastor.
3. **First Church, Charleston**: Stephanie Strider, director; John Price, pastor.
4. **Mt. Olive Church, Okolona**: June 19 - 22; Thirty-five enrolled; average attendance, 31, with two professions of faith.
5. **Mt. Manna Church, Coldwater**: June 9 - 14.
6. **Pleasant Hill Church, Tippah County**: July 28 - 30, with average attendance of 80; Sue Glisson and Kathy Franks, directors.



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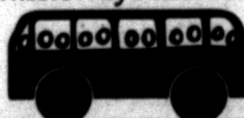
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## COLLEGE NEWS

1. **Mississippi College** landed a spot on the first Forbes.com list of America's Best Colleges. Out of 569 undergraduate colleges listed by Forbes, MC placed 129th.

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# Baptists among first in Gori after invasion

TBLISI, Georgia (BP and local reports) — When Russian troops pulled back from Gori, Georgia, on Aug. 22, a Southern Baptist overseas relief team in Tblisi scrambled to assess the need for humanitarian assistance.

"The city of Gori is in over all pretty decent condition," one team member reported. "The destruction was mostly to army bases and government buildings. It seems like most homes were spared, although there were entire blocks of apartments bombed. You can see where all of the glass was gone and fires burned on the top floors."

When the team was able to get to the church building that will be their command center for relief operations, they saw that a building 100 yards away had been destroyed when the city was bombed. They were told several people died in the explosion.

Team members were able to hold an impromptu meeting with the governor of Gori on the street in the city center, the team member reported. "We were asked to meet needs that are not being met by major humanitarian organizations," he said. "We are going to buy and deliver things such as body soap, toothpaste, toilet paper, toothbrushes, and other toiletries for several thousand people."

Russian troops have pulled back to a position six miles outside Gori — ironically, the birthplace of longtime Soviet dictator Josef Stalin — but they continue to control access to Georgia's key port at Poti, according to the AFP news service. Russians also are manning positions in Abkhazia and South Ossetia, two provinces that have sought independence from Georgia.



The Russians also have left "peacekeepers" in a buffer zone they created inside Georgia. There have been reports of looting, rape, and drunkenness among the Russian troops during their occupation of Georgian territory.

The Southern Baptist team plans to begin remodeling a building shell made available to them by a local Baptist partner. The building, which is strategically located, will be able to feed 400 people inside and more people outside, the team reported. It also will serve as housing for volunteers and eventually will provide classrooms and work space for community development projects.

"The refugees from surrounding villages whose houses were destroyed will need to be fed from this center," the team member said. "They are expecting as many as 20,000 long-term refugees here. People from the surrounding villages — Georgian nationals living in South Ossetia — have been burned out and banished from their homes. It is doubtful they will ever be able to return to their villages."

A seven-member team of disaster relief specialists from Texas

Baptist Men was scheduled to leave for Georgia on Aug. 27, with a similar team of specialists from the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma following soon after, according to Jim Brown, U.S. director of Baptist Global Response, a Southern Baptist international relief and development organization.

With Gori opening to relief workers, the timetable may be

accelerated and the dimensions of a volunteer response enlarged. The Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force has not been activated for Georgia but is closely monitoring the situation while keeping an eye on Hurricane Fay's pathway through Mississippi and surrounding states, according to Jim Didlake, director of Men's Ministries for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

A U.S. Navy ship carrying relief supplies has docked at Georgia's Black Sea port of Batumi, about 30 miles south of Russian-occupied Poti, according to news reports. Three ships have been dispatched with cargoes of humanitarian aid for the estimated 100,000 people in Georgia displaced by the fighting.

*Editor's note: Baptist Global Response is located on the Internet at [gobgr.org](http://gobgr.org).*

## EVANGELISM BIBLE CONFERENCE 2008 JAMES E. MESSER MINISTRIES

**Sunday Sept 7 thru Wednesday Sept 10, 2008**  
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#### SUNDAY 9:00am & 6:00pm

Emir Caner • Dean, The College at Southwestern - Former Muslim

#### SUNDAY 10:30am & 6:00pm

Jimmy Jackson • Pastor, Whitesburg Baptist Church  
Huntsville, Alabama

#### MONDAY 6:30pm

Don Wilton • Pastor, FBC Spartanburg  
Spartanburg, North Carolina

#### TUESDAY 6:30pm

Johnny Hunt • Pastor, FBC • Woodstock, Georgia  
Jerry Vines • Woodstock, Georgia

#### WEDNESDAY 6:30pm

Fred Luter • Pastor, Franklin Ave Baptist Church  
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FBC Ellisville • 477-3256 • Pastor, Frankie Clark

#### Wednesday: Speaker • Fred Luter

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## REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

- Gum Springs Church, Braxton:** 150th anniversary, July 29; presentation from the Mississippi Baptist Department of History and Archives; former pastor Billy Therrell recognized for donating books to the new church library.
- First Church, Sanford:** Sept. 7 - 11; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by fellowship dinner and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Thurs., 7 p.m.; Darrel Daniels, speaker; David Moore, music; Richard Hamilton, pastor.
- First Church, Soso:** Revival, Sept. 7 - 10; Sun., Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds and 1:15 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Jim Futral, speaker; Graham Smith, music; Jim Taylor, pastor.
- Siloam Church, Magee:** 115th Homecoming, Aug. 31; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch; Mike Thompson, speaker.
- Bethesda Church, Terry:** Homecoming, Sept. 7, 10:45 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch and dedication of renovated sanctuary; Rob Britt and John Winstead, speakers; Joe Wood, music.
- Vardaman Church, Kemper County:** Homecoming, Sept. 7, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch and 2 p.m. service; pastor Dennis Robinson and Jessie Napp, speakers; Olivia Johnson Manning and Tammy Kirkland Shumaker, music.
- Bunker Hill Church, Columbia:** Revival, Aug. 31 - Sept. 3; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Don Taylor, speaker; Wesley Lee, music.
- Franklin Creek Church, Moss Point:** Homecoming, Aug. 31; Bible study, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish meal and music by local musicians, 1:30 p.m.; Charles Rodgers, speaker; Kyle Crosby, music.
- Cascilla Church, Cascilla:** Revival, Sept. 7 - 10; Sun., 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Frank Lay, Wade Stevens, Michael Wilbanks, Truman Scarborough, speakers; Chris Wallace, music.

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## Gunman enters Baptist bldg.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (BP) — A gunman shot Arkansas Democratic Party chairman Bill Gwatney at the state party's headquarters in Little Rock at about 11:50 a.m. on Aug. 13. Fleeing the scene, the suspect drove to the Arkansas Baptist State Convention a few blocks east of Democratic headquarters and entered the building.

After leaving the building without harming anyone and engaging in a police chase of more than 30 miles, the gunman was killed in an exchange of gunfire with officers. Gwatney died at a local hospital of three gunshot wounds to his chest.

Dan Jordan, business manager for the Arkansas convention, said, "A middle-aged white man in a white shirt entered our building at 525 W. Capitol with a gun. The operator recognized immediately there was a threat. We have a process in place where she called the building manager immediately to respond."

The gunman ran up a stairwell to the second floor of the Baptist building with a pistol in his hand, Jordan recounted. When Kirby Martin, the building manager, confronted him, the man cocked the gun and pointed it at Martin.

Martin asked what was wrong and the man said he had lost his job. Martin was able to escape the threat and the gunman went down another stairway and out the front door of the Baptist building. The man did not fire a shot while in the Baptist building.

The building operator had called the police, who arrived soon after the man left the building. The gunman jumped into a blue pickup truck on Arch Street at the side entrance of the building and sped away. Jordan said the police were in pursuit of him as soon as he drove off.

The police chase ended in gunfire near Sheridan, south of Little Rock, during which the suspect was shot and killed.



# wMu annual meeting holds surprises

By Tony Martin  
Associate Editor

The worship celebration of the Woman's Missionary Union Annual Meeting Aug. 23 at Garaywa Camp and Conference center was anything but routine.

The meeting marked the 130th year of Mississippi wMu, which in itself is notable, but additionally, this meeting marked the 10th year of service of Kay Cassibry, Executive Director-Treasurer of Mississippi wMu. The day also marked a sizeable gift to the national wMu Foundation from the Mississippi wMu Foundation. Over \$100,000 has been given to the Kay Cassibry Endowment for the Future of Mississippi wMu, exceeding the endowment's goal. The campaign was to provide individuals, churches and associations with the opportunity to support both their state and national wMu at the same time, while building long-term financial stability for both. Annually, 2.5% of the fund value is available to Mississippi wMu, 2% to national wMu for their Vision Fund, and .5% to the wMu Foundation.

During the Saturday worship celebration, Kaye Miller, national wMu president, said, "It is our call to love the Lord our God with all that you are. Our love for God defines our lives and our identity. Imagine how our lives could revolutionize the world around us if we could see the world through Jesus' eyes."

Miller grew up in Thailand; her parents were medical missionaries. "We are to be imitators of Him. As we do this, people around us will sit up and take notice. My daddy loved God. He worked with social outcasts in our village, people who were afflicted with leprosy. My mission journey began in a leper clinic. I remember seeing my daddy sitting on the ground with a leper friend of mine, who had been a friend for 14 years. I saw my daddy take those stinking bandages off this leper's hands, and as tears ran down his face I heard him tell of the one who could heal him, heal his heart, and that someday he would be [physically] healed. When I heard that, for the first time I realized that I had not asked Jesus into my heart, and I was saved along with my leper friend.

"God calls us to do things far beyond what we think we can do," Miller continued. "We are to have a ministry of presence. I have the opportunity to show those closest to



**SURPRISE!** - Kay Cassibry, center, is taken aback by the "over the goal" check to the national wMu Foundation and the observance of her tenth anniversary. Shown are David George, president, wMu Foundation, Cassibry, and Mississippi wMu vice-president Marilyn Huff. (Photo by Tony Martin)

me the love of God. And wMu gives us the opportunity to be missionaries right where we are. He's calling me, He's calling you, because He has a purpose for each one of us."

Cassibry shared the wMu Executive Board report. After her admission that she was "addicted to the Olympics," she said, "You might have been one of the four billion people who watched the opening ceremonies. But my favorite part is the parade of nations. To see all those athletes come in behind their flags is just a little piece of what heaven is going to be like."

Cassibry referred to the Chinese flag bearer, 7' 6" Yao Ming, and the nine-year-old boy who accompanied him, Lin Hao. Lin had rescued two of his classmates from the rubble of his school after the earthquake in his home province. When asked why he rescued his friends, he said, "I am the leader in my class."

"We do what we do because we are leaders," Cassibry said. "We take responsibility for what God has given us to do."

New members of the Mississippi wMu Executive Board include Jane Sumrall, Area 2 Coordinator, Union Co. Association; Teresa Dickens, Area 5 Coordinator, Metro Association; Nancy Harmon, Area 6 Coordinator, Jasper Association; Betty Carlisle, Area 9 Coordinator, Pearl River Association; and members-at-large Cindy Heimbach, Monroe Association; Glenda Braswell, Mid-Delta Association; Bonnie Hall, Pike Association and Linda Donnell, Lebanon Association.

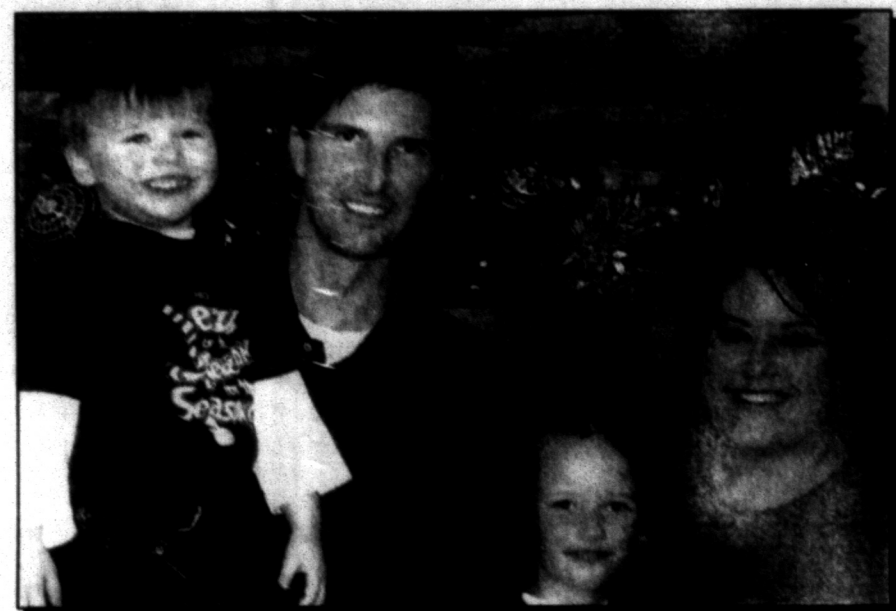
Marilyn Huff, Mississippi wMu vice-president, gave the Foundation Committee report. "Starting June 15, all of you ladies, all over Mississippi, made phone calls

and sent out letters saying, 'Can you help us with the Kay Cassibry Endowment Fund? And you all came through.' Huff and Donna Swartz, president of Mississippi wMu, presented a check for \$22,777, which put the endowment fund over the \$100,000 goal. The surprise of the day was when national wMu Foundation president David George and associate Rianna Freeman from the national wMu Foundation; David Michel, associate executive director, missions strategy, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; and Bob and Janis Cassibry, Kay Cassibry's parents, emerged from an offstage room for the presentation. Michel presented Cassibry with ten red roses symbolic of her ten years of service. George and Freeman presented Cassibry with a painting commemorating the event. Afterwards, Cassibry's mother Janis shared several thoughts about her daughter.

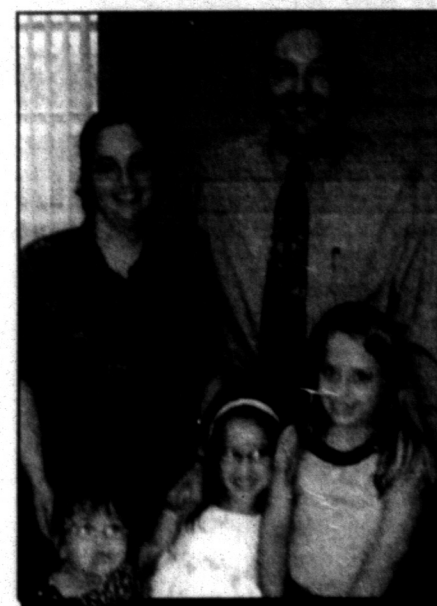
Swartz closed with a call to commitment. Using the service from the dedication of Camp Garaywa on Apr. 1, 1947, Swartz led in the original responsive reading from that event in remembrance of what had gone before. "God has blessed this place," Swartz said. "He has blessed the lives that have come through these gates, and those that have gone to the uttermost parts of the world. How precious is the treasure that has been entrusted to us. For me, God said, 'Donna, do not be careless with the treasure that has been entrusted to you.' So my challenge is to say we may not know where we are going, but we know what our history is. We know that is the next generation of boys and girls, men and women, that we must be reaching and touching."

## STATE CHANGES

1. Steve Smith, Bryam, began his pastorate of Gum Springs Church, Braxton, Aug. 10. He comes with his wife Donna and children, Christian and Tanner.
2. Park Place Church, Brandon, has called Keith Grubbs as pastor. Shown are Caleb Grubbs, Grubbs, Hannah Grace Grubbs and Jana Grubbs.
3. Parkway Church, Kosciusko, has called Jimmy Thornhill as minister of music and youth. Shown are Thornhill, wife Greta, and daughters Hannah, Lydia, and Melody.
4. First Church, Shannon, has called John P. Box as pastor effective June 29. He holds degrees from Crichton College and Mid-America Seminary, and is currently enrolled in the D.Min. program at Mid-America. He is shown with his wife Kimberly and son Hayden.
5. Branch Church, Morton, has called Adam Bobo as minister of youth. Shown are Bobo and wife Luann.



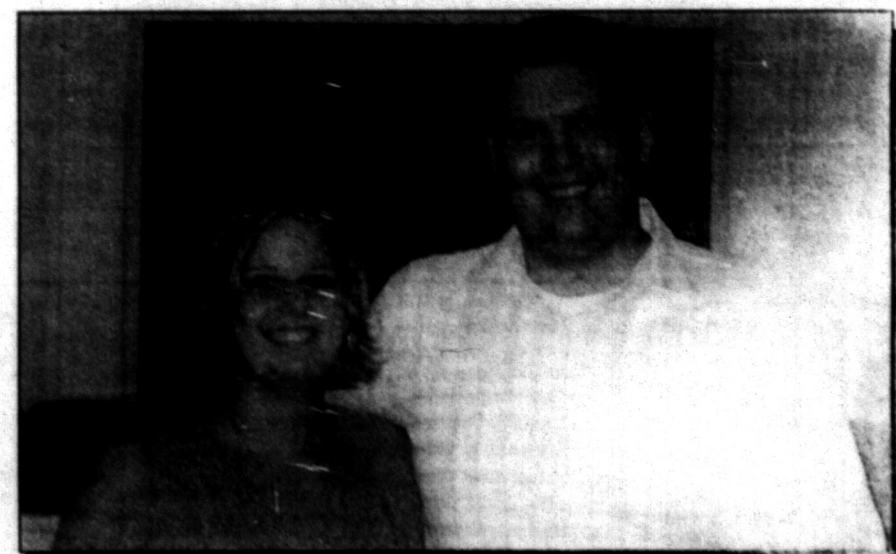
2. The Grubbs



3. The Thornhills



4. The Boxes



5. The Bobos



# THE VILLAGE VIEW



Dr. Rory Lee, Executive Director

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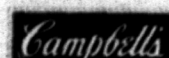
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### PRODUCTS WORTH 5 POINTS



#### UPC CODE

Campbell's Soups (microwavable bowls)  
Campbell's Condensed 10 to 11 oz. Soups  
(Specially marked packages only)



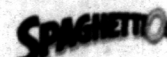
#### UPC CODE

Campbell's Chunky Soups (microwavable bowls)  
Campbell's Chunky Chili (microwavable bowls)



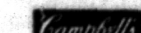
#### UPC CODE

All Campbell's Soup At Hand



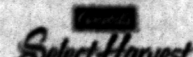
#### UPC CODE

SpaghettiO's Original Pasta (15 oz.)  
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#### SUPPER BAKES

UPC CODE  
All Campbell's Supper Bakes Meal Kits



#### UPC CODE

All Campbell's Select Harvest Soups



#### CAP

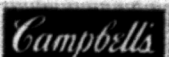
All V8 Splash Juice Drinks  
All V8 Splash Smoothies



#### UPC CODE

All V8 Soups

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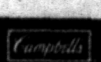
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Campbell's Fat Free Soups  
Campbell's Kitchen Classic Soups  
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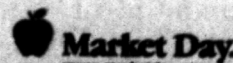
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Campbell's Chunky Soups  
Campbell's Chunky Chili  
Campbell's Chunky Fully Loaded Soups



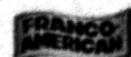
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Campbell's Healthy Request Soups



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Selected products (1lb/carton)



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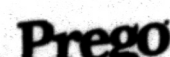
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Swanson Broth (can and carton)  
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SpaghettiO's Original Pasta (7.5 oz., 26 oz.)  
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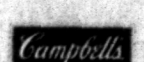
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All V8 100% Vegetable Juice



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# BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

## A Consistent Life

Hebrews 12:1-15

By Janice H. Fortenberry

There is an old tale that illustrates the many facets of leading a consistent Christian life. An old man had two champion hunting dogs. They were equally trained and conditioned to win any competition. He would bring them to the hunting trials, one would win this week, and the other would win the next.

His fellow competitors got disgruntled that this man and his two dogs dominated the sport and finally they approached the old man and asked, "How is it that one of your dogs wins one week and the other always wins the next? How do you do that, alternating the victory from first one dog then to the other?"

The old man just grinned and said, "The one what wins is the one I feeds the most."

When we are saved, the Holy Spirit comes to live within us. However, that doesn't mean we are freed from our human nature. Unfortunately, we will be subject to our human nature until the day we are glorified in Heaven with Christ. Those two hunting dogs represent our Godly spirit and our earthly spirit and one is going to predominate at any given moment of the day depending upon which one is nurtured.

When we try to abide in the spirit by praying, reading the Bible and seeking Godliness, we will bear the hallmarks of a Godly individual. "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience....And over all these



Fortenberry

virtues put on love." (Col. 12-14 NIV)

On the other hand, when we take our eyes off Jesus and give in to our human desires, we find ourselves right where Paul confessed to be: "Instead of doing what I know is right, I do wrong." (Romans 7:19 CEV)

Picture a set of stairs sideways. I would like to tell you that I took the first step when I professed my faith in Christ and I've been making steady progress upwardly ever since. That's hardly the case, as my friends and family can tell you. Because I often give in to my human nature and my earthly desires, I take several steps forward and one back.

The Holy Spirit convicts me during these periods and, for a while, I nurture my Godly nature and my forward progress is better. Then, here come those earthly desires again and I stumble and lose my footing. I don't think I'm the only Christian who experiences this.

So what's the key to being more consistent? The writer of Hebrews points out we are to remove hindrances that keep us from being more Godly (Heb. 12:1-4). What are hindrances? Have you ever had a "pet" sin that you just cannot let go of? It hasn't caused a big problem yet, so you just keep on letting it slip by. Or how about a friend who brings out the worst in you rather than the best and you just can't seem to move beyond their company? These, my friends, are hindrances.

Hebrews also says we are to accept with grace the discipline of God (Heb. 12:5-11). Not all difficulties that happen to us are from God. They may be from our poor choices. However, God does say in His word that he can and will discipline his children (v. 6). Why does He do this? Because He loves us and knows that, in most cases, we grow spiritually when we are forced (often through difficult and painful circumstances) to rely on Him, reach for Him and rest in Him.

When I'm in trouble and my

heart is breaking, I'm more likely to be "feeding" my Godly spirit rather than indulging in my earthly, ungodly spirit. How ironic, though, that it takes tough times to make me submissive to the will of my loving Father. Can you imagine how much greater I'd be blessed if I'd bring myself to be that submissive all the time rather than just those in which I'm in a bind?

Third, we can improve our consistency by being honest about our inconsistencies with our fellow believers. (Heb. 12:12-15). They're struggling, too! So why in the world are we so reluctant to share with others that our Christian walks are often more like the electric shuffle—moving to the right, moving to the left, taking steps forward and then, unfortunately, taking some steps back. Share that! Build a camaraderie and help pull each other along!

What's our challenge this week? Discern which "dog" we're feeding the most.

Fortenberry is a member of First Church, McComb.

# EXPLORE THE BIBLE

## Rome: Facing Limitations

Lesson Passages: Acts Acts 28:16-25, 28-31

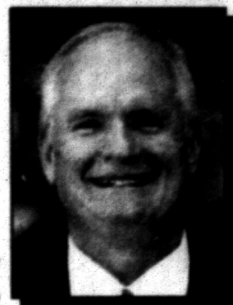
By W. Wayne VanHorn

Anyone today who did not know about Paul the Apostle and who was reading for the first time the last chapters of the Book of Acts would conclude he led a cursed life. He was imprisoned in Caesarea from A.D. 58-60. He was taken from there to Rome where he was imprisoned for an additional two years from A.D. 60-62. In route, he was shipwrecked and snake-bitten. Yet Paul considered himself blessed.

This lesson is about Paul's determination to share Christ while a prisoner in Rome. The emphasis is on witnessing when, where, and to whom we have opportunity. Paul achieved this consistency in witnessing better than anyone else. Today's believers can benefit from studying how Paul faced his limitations and found ways to tell others about Jesus.

### 1. Make New Acquaintances (Acts 28:16-22)

Paul arrived in Rome, a prisoner bound in chains, under house arrest, with a Roman guard to monitor him. What others would view as a negative circumstance, Paul treated as another opportunity to spread the Gospel. He began where he had so many times before, with his own people, the Jews. Paul did not let little things like being in a strange place surrounded by people he did not know prevent him from doing what God empowered him to do. He made new acquaintances in order to present the life-changing impact Jesus had on his life. Motivated by gratitude and empowered by the Spirit, he wanted everyone to hear the good news. More than anything else, he wanted his fellow Jews to embrace Jesus, "the hope of Israel" (Acts 28:20).



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### 2. Find Interested People (Acts 28:23-25)

Paul's confinement in Rome provided two key benefits: he was easy to find and he had plenty of time on his hands. Therefore, many Jews came to his house-prison to hear his presentations about

Jesus. These Gospel presentations lasted "from morning till evening" (Acts 28:23; NASB). Paul's results were typical; some believed and some did not believe. The Greek word rendered "believed" in KJV and "convinced" in the NIV, means to be persuaded or to look with favor on something. Paul had learned that presenting the message of Jesus was his part, but responding was his hearers' part. He focused on getting his part right by telling interested people about Jesus.

### 3. Look for Open-Minded People (Acts 28:28-29)

Many of the Roman Jews refused to accept Jesus as their Messiah. Paul's great desire to see his own countrymen saved often left him frustrated when they obstinately refused to

believe. He channeled his frustration in the direction of a stronger commitment to look for open-minded people. He found them among the Gentiles. Paul declared to the Jews that God's salvation had been sent to the Gentiles. We get our word Apostle from the Greek verb in this verse rendered "had been sent."

Readers who compare the King James Version, the New American Standard Bible, and the New International Version will notice that Acts 28:29 does not appear in the NIV. This difference is due to translations based on different Greek manuscripts. The central point remains the same; Paul's preaching caused division among the Jews. Jewish obstinacy and opposition prompted Paul to look for Gentiles who were open to the Gospel. Though confined to his rented home in Rome, Paul's ministry followed the same pattern of his missionary journeys. He started his ministry in new places by presenting Jesus to the Jews as the Messiah promised by their prophets. When the Jews rejected his message (though some believed), Paul shifted his focus to the Gentiles.

### 4. Let People Come to You (Acts 28:30-31)

In Rome Paul did not have the freedom to go to his audience, but he gladly welcomed all who came to him. Paul's house arrest prevented him from walking the streets of Rome's market as he had done in Athens or preaching in the synagogue as he had done in other cities. Yet, a constant stream of people visited Paul in his house. He preached about the kingdom of God, the same subject Jesus talked about with his disciples before his ascension (Acts 1:3). Paul also taught about things concerning the Lord Jesus Christ.

I know a man who witnessed to people in the waiting room of the ICU while waiting for visiting time to see his wife. A member of a church I served witnessed to the doctor and nurses who attended to her while she was recovering from surgery. Like Paul we can witness at every opportunity.

VanHorn is dean of the School of Christian Studies & the Arts at Mississippi College and a member of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton.

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) type-written, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will



be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and

white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution

items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.



# McCain, Obama stake positions at Saddleback forum

LAKE FOREST, Ca. (BP and local reports) — Evangelical leaders say presumptive Republican nominee John McCain made significant strides toward attracting the votes of social conservatives Aug. 16 during a presidential forum in which he and Democrat presidential candidate Barack Obama differed sharply on abortion, homosexual rights, and the judiciary.

The two men appeared on stage separately for one hour each at Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Ca., and were asked nearly identical questions by the congregation's pastor, Rick Warren.

The event was dubbed the Saddleback Civil Forum on the Presidency. The church is affiliated with the California Southern Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention. Pastor Rick Warren is a graduate of Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth.

Although some pro-family leaders had expressed concern the forum wouldn't cover hot-button social issues, those fears quickly disappeared minutes into the event when Warren, noting that there have been approximately 40 million abortions since Roe v. Wade, asked Obama, "At what point does a baby get human rights?"

"I think that whether you're looking at it from a theological perspective or a scientific perspective," Obama responded, "answering that question with specificity is above my pay-grade."

Obama added that he believes "there is a moral and ethical element" to the abortion issue but stressed that he is pro-choice. I believe in Roe v. Wade, and I come to that conclusion not because I'm pro-abortion, but because, ultimately, I don't think women make these decisions casually," he said.

Asked the same question about when a baby gets human rights, McCain said "at the moment of conception."

"I have a 25-year pro-life record in the Congress [and] in the Senate," he said, "and as president of the United States, I will be a pro-life president and this presidency will have pro-life policies... That's my commitment to you."

Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville, applauded the format and said he felt "people learned a lot more about" the two candidates than "they're going to learn in the debates."

Land also said the fact that the event took place at a Southern Baptist church with a Southern Baptist pastor asking questions means that there has not been the "decline of evangelical influence" in politics as some have said.

"I think people have a very clear choice," Land told Baptist Press of the two candidates. "I thought that Obama did as well as he could have done given his worldview and given the format, and I thought McCain was better than I've ever seen him. ...I think he assuaged some of [social conservatives'] doubts about his commitment to the pro-life cause and his understanding of it."

During a media teleconference following the debate, three pro-family leaders — Tom Minnery of Focus on the Family, Janet Folger of Faith 2 Action, and Harry Jackson Sr. of the High Impact Leadership Coalition — agreed that McCain had helped himself with social conservative voters.

Obama has been making a concerted effort to attract the vote of conservative



PRESIDENTIAL FORUM — Rick Warren (center), pastor of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Ca., joins presumptive Republican nominee John McCain (left) and Democratic nominee Barack Obama on stage Aug. 16 during a presidential forum held at the church. The two presidential candidates differed significantly on several issues, including abortion and the role of the judiciary. Saddleback Church is affiliated with the California Southern Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention. (BP photo by Meredith Day)

evangelicals, who traditionally have been part of the GOP base.

"I think that Senator McCain closed the deal," said Jackson, author of *The Black Contract With America On Moral Values*, and pastor of Hope Christian Church in Beltsville, Md. He also has co-authored a book with Tony Perkins of the Family Research Council.

"I think he made a clear contrast between himself and Barack Obama..." Jackson said. "If he can continue with the kind of fervor and integration of issues and faith, I think that he may be on to a new high in his campaign. If he retreats to a place of not wanting to talk anymore about these kinds of things, I think it will not help him. So, [it was a] tremendous win... I think it's a new chapter. I hope it continues."

Jackson warned that if McCain chooses a "pro-abortion vice president" he would be giving "the election away to Obama."

Folger expressed frustration with Obama's answer as to when a baby gets human rights. "I would submit that he shouldn't be receiving the salary of president if he doesn't know the answer to a very basic medical question that's uniformly reported in every medical textbook, every modern-day embryology and fetology book in existence," she said.

Land called Obama's answer "evasive" and said he dodged "a tough question."

Pro-lifers also took issue with two other statements Obama made about abortion. At one point he said "abortions have not gone down" even though "we have had a president who is opposed to abortion," when in fact the abortion rate has fallen during the Bush administration.

The pro-choice Guttmacher Institute reported earlier this year that the abortion rate was at its lowest point in three decades.

At another point Obama said women don't make the decision to abort "casually," which a separate Guttmacher study seems to refute. The study showed that 86% of abortions are made for the sake of convenience. Only one percent of women said their abortion was the consequence of rape, and less than one percent cited incest.

On other issues, Obama was asked to define marriage and responded by saying it is the "union between a man and a

woman," but he said he would not support a constitutional amendment with that definition.

"Historically, we have not defined marriage in our constitution," said Obama, who also restated his support for same-sex civil unions. "It's been a matter of state law."

It was unclear whether Obama was referring to a proposed marriage amendment in California or a proposed federal marriage amendment, although he opposes both.

"You cannot square the circle as he is trying to do," Minnery said. "Either you support marriage or you do not. He says one thing. By his actions, he indicates another thing, and that answer was extremely weak, and shows us the hypocrisy in his position on that issue."

"I think it would be more refreshing for him if he would just be honest about it and say he favors gay marriage. He cannot do that, because the American people do not favor gay marriage."

McCain said he believes the decision by the California Supreme Court to legalize homosexual marriage was wrong.

"I strongly support preserving the unique status of marriage between man and woman," he said, before stressing his backing of marriage amendments on the state level. McCain's home state of Arizona will be voting on a marriage amendment in November.

"...In my state, I hope we will make that decision, and other states, they have [made that decision] to recognize the unique status between man and woman, and that doesn't mean that people can't enter into legal agreements. That doesn't mean that they don't have the rights of all citizens. I'm not saying that. I am saying that we should preserve the unique status of marriage between one man and one woman."

McCain voluntarily gave his thoughts on a federal marriage amendment, which he has opposed. "If a federal court decided that my state of Arizona had to observe what the state of Massachusetts decided [on gay marriage], then I would favor a [federal] constitutional amendment. Until then, I believe the states should make the decisions within their own states."

Warren also asked each man to name

an existing Supreme Court justice they would not have nominated. Obama named Justice Clarence Thomas, a leading conservative and the only African-American on the court.

"I don't think that he was as strong enough a jurist or legal thinker at the time for that elevation, setting aside the fact that I profoundly disagree with his interpretations of a lot of the Constitution," Obama said. "I would not nominate Justice Scalia, although I don't think there's any doubt about his intellectual brilliance, because he and I just disagree."

McCain said he would not have nominated Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer, David Souter, and John Paul Stevens, the current court's four most liberal members.

"I think that the president of the United States has incredible responsibility in nominating people to the United States Supreme Court," McCain said. "...This nomination should be based on the criteria of a proven record, of strictly adhering to the Constitution of the United States of America, and not legislating from the bench. Some of the worst damage has been done by legislating from the bench."

Land said he found some irony in Obama naming Clarence Thomas as the one justice he'd not nominate. "When he said that, I thought, you know, the one argument that if I were Sen. Obama I'd stay away from, is experience," Land said.

On other issues:

- Obama and McCain were asked to describe what their Christian faith means to each of them. Obama responded, "Jesus Christ died for my sins, and that I am redeemed through Him." McCain said, "It means I'm saved and forgiven."

- Both expressed their support for embryonic stem cell research. Warren had asked if they still support it in light of recent advances in adult stem cell research showing that adult stem cell can be reprogrammed into having nearly identical qualities as embryonic stem cells.

McCain, saying the question has been one of "great struggle" for those in the pro-life community, said, "I am wildly optimistic that skin cell research, which is coming more and more into focus and practicability, will make this debate an academic one."

Said Obama, "[I]f, in fact, adult stem cell lines are working just as well, then of course we should try to avoid any kind of moral arguments that may be in place."

- McCain said his greatest personal moral failure was the "failure of my first marriage." Obama said his greatest moral failure has been selfishness which has prevented him from doing "God's work," as well as his experimentation as a teenager with drugs and alcohol.

- Obama called it a "great idea" to put together an emergency plan to place the world's 148 million orphans with families. Warren raised the idea at the forum.

"I think it's something that we should sit down and figure out, working between non-governmental organizations, national institutions, the U.S. government, and try to figure out what we can do," he said.

Said McCain, who with his wife adopted a daughter from Bangladesh, "I think we have to make adoption a lot easier in this country. That's why so many people go to other countries... to be able to adopt children."

Editor's note: A transcript of the forum is available at: <http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/080817/se.01.html>.